



COUNCIL DISTRICT

FRYE LIGHTS

DECEMBER 2009

VOLUME VII ISSUE XII



Serving

Bay Ho

Bay Park

Birdland

De Anza

Clairemont

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mission Valley

Mission Bay Park

Mission Village

Morena

Serra Mesa



Happy Holidays

USD, local firm enter solar partnership for one of largest campus projects in U.S.

The University of San Diego and locally based AMSOLAR Corp. are teaming up to develop a 1.23-megawatt system on the Linda Vista campus. The massive project, announced on Nov. 17, will be the eighth-largest solar-energy facility on a U.S. college campus.

“This important initiative will propel our sustainability efforts and immediately allow us to reduce our energy consumption by as much as 15 percent,” said USD President Mary E. Lyons. “We are also excited about the opportunities to integrate this initiative with our student learning both in and outside the classroom across all disciplines while demonstrating our commitment to creating a greener society.”



The solar system, which will be arrayed on nine campus buildings, will cost the university nothing. The panel installation is being funded through federal stimulus funds. AMSOLAR will own and operate it through a 25-year power-purchase agreement, selling electricity to USD at a reduced rate.

Installation of the solar panels is scheduled to begin within the next 90 days and should be completed next spring, said Joshua Weinstein, managing partner of AMSOLAR.

Under the agreement, the firm will install the system at no charge to USD and will sell the university power at reductions of up to 15 percent, Weinstein said. He described the partnership as an example of how solar power could be adopted on a wide scale across the country.

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Frye calls for study of high-speed rail routes

State authority declining consideration of I-15 corridor



Councilmember Frye joined advocates for Rose Canyon and other elected officials in calling for further state reviews of proposed high-speed rail routes through San Diego County.

Donna Frye joined several other local leaders at a press conference last month to challenge state proposals to put a high-speed rail line through Rose Canyon or tunnel under University Towne Center, forcing trains to slow in sweeping 90-degree turns.

Not only would the “bullet trains” have to decelerate from speeds of up to 200 mph, Councilmember Frye noted, the plans to turn trains westward toward Lindbergh Field and downtown San Diego also are far too costly and present serious environmental concerns.

Instead, a straight-shot route south from Riverside County down the Interstate 15 corridor toward the Mexican border, with the Qualcomm Stadium site serving as a connecting hub, makes far more sense, said Frye.

She was joined at a Nov. 10 press conference at City Hall by Councilmember Sherri Lightner, State Sen. Christine Kehoe, City Council President Ben

Hueso and Chula Vista City Councilmember Steve Castaneda. They and advocates for protecting Rose Canyon called for renewed consideration of the I-15/Qualcomm route. The California High Speed Rail Authority studied the I-15 route as part of a 2005 environmental review but is no longer considering it because it does not end in downtown San Diego nor connect to Lindbergh Field.

But Frye and the other leaders noted that riders could connect to those and other destinations at a Qualcomm Stadium hub, with express trains proceeding at high speeds directly to South County and ultimately to Tijuana’s Rodriguez International Airport, which in the future could serve as a binational regional airport.

Lightner and Frye co-authored letters to the San Diego Association of Governments and the rail authority, calling for a thorough review of the I-15/Qualcomm route in comparison to the others. To see those letters and get more information, visit www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd1.

For more details about the proposed routes, visit the rail authority’s Web site, www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

MV sand, concrete plant wins green award

The Vulcan Materials Co. sand, gravel and cement plant in Mission Valley received an environmental sustainability award from a national trade group last month.

Operators of the 230-acre plant north of Friars Road between Mission Center Road and Interstate 805 – site of the future Quarry Falls housing and retail development – received the National Ready-Mix Concrete Association’s “Green Star” certification for ongoing efforts to reduce consumption of fuel and electricity and to expand the use of recycled materials in asphalt and concrete products.

Association President Robert Gardini bestowed the award in a Nov. 2 presentation at the Mission Valley plant.

Vulcan officials said they were honored to receive the recognition and will continue to pursue goals of maximizing efficiency and environmental sustainability.



Trade in those energy-wasting holiday lights

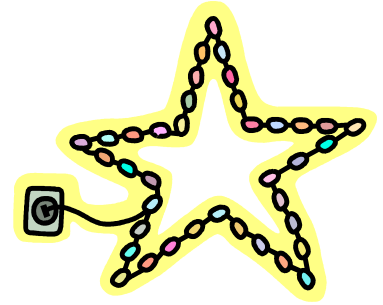
The City's Environmental Services Department is encouraging residents to save electricity this holiday season by trading in old holiday lights for new energy-efficient strands.

While supplies last, families can exchange up to three strands of standard incandescent holiday lights for energy-saving light-emitting diode (LED) strands at no charge:

- Thursday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. to noon: San Diego Public Utilities Department, 9192 Topaz Way
 - Friday, Dec. 4, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.: December Nights, Balboa Park
 - Saturday, Dec. 5, noon to 10 p.m.: December Nights, Balboa Park
- You must also bring a valid California ID and/or your SDG&E utility bill.

LED strands use up to 90 percent less energy than standard holiday lights, create almost no heat and reduce fire hazards. The exchange program is funded by California utility customers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

For more information, visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/energy/conservation/residential/bulbexchange.shtml> or contact Kathie Pishny (858) 627-3334 or Josh Brock (858) 492-5033 in the Environmental Services Department.



Young talent shines in LV



Eye-popping dance moves and stirring singing performances drew cheers and applause from a packed house Nov. 19 at a "talent showcase" staged by the Linda Vista Teen Center. Under the direction of Dominique Gilbert, singers Taylor Walker and Todd Hartwell, at left, wowed the crowd with several original songs, accompanied by Taylor's brother, Chris, on drums. And nearly a dozen dancers, like the one below, shimmied, spun and snaked across the floor at the Boys & Girls Club facility.



Students can win cash prizes for research, essays about SD women

San Diego's Women's History Museum and Educational Center in Golden Hill is sponsoring a contest for area high-school students to research and write about the day-to-day lives of local women. Twenty winners will be awarded \$50 U.S. Savings Bonds.

The challenge involves choosing one of the women included in the museum's exhibit "All Our Grandmothers: Building San Diego, The Untold Story." Students are asked to visit the museum at 2323 Broadway, Suite 107, select a woman to research, and create a narrative that describes a day in her life.

In addition to the cash prizes, authors of winning entries will be invited to record their narratives in a professional-level studio. The student recordings will become part of the museum's permanent exhibit (and will look great on resumes).

For more information, visit www.whmec.org or call the museum at (619) 233-7963.



SM artist fosters wonder and interest in sea

Varied works in multiple mediums express lifelong passions



Wesley Farmer

Wesley Farmer couldn't be more surrounded by marine life if he lived on the floor of La Jolla Cove.

His Serra Mesa apartment, from ceiling to floor, is loaded with paintings, sculptures, mounted fish, pen & ink drawings and scholarly guides -- all of it his creation, and all of it stemming from his lifelong passion for all that lives in and around the sea.

"Look around; I don't have people pictures," said Farmer, 76. "All of this is for sale. But very little has ever sold over the years.

"After all," said Farmer in typical self-deprecating fashion, "paintings are non-essential furniture."

Farmer said he has dabbled in art ever since he was a kid, when he loved sketching comic-book covers.

It was his grandfather, a native of Oslo, Norway, who got him interested in the sea when he was a kid, Farmer said. The youngster went on to become president of the Biology Club at San Diego High School and earned a masters and PhD in marine sciences from Arizona State University.

He spent many years working with curative exhibits at the Museum of Natural History in Balboa Park. His passion for sea creatures and for art still burns in retirement.

In countless hours working tide pools, walking along beaches, fishing and diving, Farmer gained a remarkable knowledge of marine creatures, making extensive field notes and remarkably lifelike drawings along the way. He is especially fond of the sea slug, several species of which he has discovered and named in sojourns along the coasts of California and Baja.

Farmer has written several guide books to sea slugs and other creatures, including: "Beachcombing Between Tides," "Sea-Slug Gastropods" "One Hundred Common Marine Animals of San Diego" and "Did You Know That? Baja Sea Shells of the Northern Sea of Cortez." His own clear, precise drawings adorn each of his publications.

A self-taught artist for the most part, Farmer said he gleaned a foundation in drawing and painting in a home-study course from the Famous Artists School. His work has been exhibited at Natural History Museum, the Del Mar Fair and at the Off Track Gallery in Encinitas.

His biggest thrill these days, Farmer said, is working with kids in his role as a docent at the Torrey Pines State Reserve.

"I try to get them to think and wonder," he said. "I ask them to write something about what they observe and try to illustrate it in some way. When I'm out with kids, I hope I can spark some curiosity, at least in a few of them. That makes it all worthwhile."

To learn more about Farmer and to view some of his art, visit his Web site, www.angelfire.com/ca2/seashorediscoveries.



Four 8x10 Farmer oil paintings, sea slugs from the San Diego area.

City Public Works Dept. receives national honor

For outstanding efficiency, quality and reliability in delivering water and wastewater services, the San Diego Public Utilities Department was given a Gold Award in November by the national Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies.

"It is my pleasure to recognize the achievements of our employees and to assure you that we will continue to seek opportunities to further improve our performance and service delivery," said Jim Barrett, Director of Public Utilities, in announcing the award to City officials.

Among the achievements the judges cited were San Diego's superior operation of its Otay Treatment Plant; its savings for ratepayers of \$2.7 million in 2009 by consolidating business-support divisions; a 10-year savings (through 2008) of \$161 million through improved efficiencies; and its partnerships with Sun Edison to develop large-scale solar-energy projects at the Alvarado Treatment Plant and the Lake Murray Pump Station.



Rockin' it through two decades at the Belly Up



Steve Roder

walled acoustics and intimate ambiance, Roder said.

"It's a great room," he said. "It sounds good, looks good and feels good."

Managing a staff of about 20, Roder commutes 20 miles from his Clairemont home, arriving about two hours before showtime to check bands in and get them set up. He brings liquor bottles out of the storage room for the bartenders to stock, then tends to any of a 100 little tasks to get his crew ready for the opening of the doors and ticket window. He might run up and down the stairs to his office dozens of times.

Ticket prices range anywhere from \$5 for a local band to \$125 for a star like B. B. King. "Tom Jones was our first \$100 show," Roder said, "That was just last year." (And yes, he says, "the girls were throwing panties.")



**He's at his best
when the crowd rolls in.**

"I don't plan on going anywhere. I love this job," he said. "Some nights it's very, very satisfying. It's just a good feeling, all the way around."

Clairemont resident Steve Roder has pretty much seen it all in his 22 years at the Belly Up Tavern, a concert venue located in Solana Beach but known by musicians nationwide.

Starting out as a part-time security doorman and working his way up to manager, the role he's had since 2003, Roder has met hundreds of rock, blues and reggae stars. He's also had a whole lot of fun – although at times it's been more than a little wacky.

Like in his first month there, when punk-rockers Wendy O. Williams and the Plasmatics came through on their "Maggots: The Tour."

"She (Williams) cut her guitar in half with a chain saw on stage," Roder recalls. "I had to throw some guy out of the mosh pit because he had on a motorcycle helmet."

Opened in 1974, the Belly Up is a relatively small venue with a big reputation. It holds 600 people, with seats for only half that number. But performers who could sell out sites 10 times larger, from B.B. King to the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Taj Mahal, like the Belly Up's wood-



**Roder unclogs snags large and small
before each show gets under way.**

There have been many other crazy nights, like last summer when a reggae band's bass speaker shorted out and caught fire. "Our security was right on it," Roder said. "In 19 minutes we had the fire out, the speaker repaired and the band back up on stage."

Another time, a patron accidentally tripped a stage switch, bringing a movie screen down in front of a band. The lead guitar player stepped around it and kept playing, his band-mates hidden from view until Roder could find the switch and raise the screen back up.

Most musicians, even big stars, are surprisingly easy-going, Roder says. Some are a little full of themselves. Lisa Marie Presley demanded a privacy screen be set up to shield her from public view for the 10-foot walk from her bus to the backstage door. No fans were back there waiting to mob her.

Roder just tries to roll with whatever comes. Every night, every show, is different.

Holiday feasting and fun in Clairemont

'Tis the season to get jolly in Clairemont.

The Clairemont Town Council's annual Holiday Party will be 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3, at Clairemont High School, 4150 Ute Drive. Everyone in the community is invited! Moondawgs, a 50's/60's band, will provide entertainment. The Town Council will provide turkey, mashed potatoes and cranberries; attendees are invited to bring side dishes and desserts to share.

More fun is in store at a Clairemont Holiday Party at Skybox Sports Grill, 4809 Clairemont Drive, from 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19. A \$10 cover charge gets you in the door for a dinner of beef, pasta, chicken, veggies, mashed potatoes, rolls and salad from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., followed by music and dancing with the Road Dawgs from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Everyone in the community is invited to this event intended to be done annually, presented by Clairemont Community News, K-CO Construction and the Road Dawgs.

For a flyer and more information, visit www.clairemontholidayparty.com.



Church finds new home in Bay Park



Donna and the Rev. Dan Koeshall, senior pastor of Metropolitan Community Church.

Metropolitan Community Church of San Diego opened its doors to the community as it dedicated its new church home in Bay Park on Sunday, Nov. 22.

Joined by worldwide MCC Moderator Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, all of its former living senior pastors and the choir rocking out to “Come On Into the House,” congregations filled the church for two services of worship and communion.

MCC had been looking for a larger building since 2001 to house its ministries and growing congregation, eventually finding the property at Clairemont Drive and Denver Street this year.

Councilmember Frye presented Senior Pastor Dan Koeshall and the congregation a commendation welcoming them and proclaiming Nov. 22, 2009, to be Metropolitan Community Church Day in Council District Six.

For more information, visit the church’s Web site, www.mccsd.org.

SeaWorld garden highlights water conservation

Across from SeaWorld’s Seaport Marketplace (formerly the Hospitality Center), the park now has a “water-wise garden.” Water is precious in San Diego, and SeaWorld wants to demonstrate how it conserves — and how others can, too.

The garden highlights draught-tolerant plants and offers water-saving planting ideas and conservation tips.

The average San Diego household uses more than 10,000 gallons of water per month. With the City in Stage 2 drought conditions, here are some easy ways to cut back:

- Set lawn mower blades as high as possible; longer grass reduces evaporation. Leave clippings on the lawn, which cools the ground and holds in moisture.
- Put mulch, compost or wood chips around trees and plants to slow evaporation.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
- Adjust sprinklers so they don’t spray on sidewalks, driveway or street.
- Install drip irrigation systems for trees, shrubs and flowers.

SeaWorld is doing all it can minimize its water consumption, including installing computerized irrigation controllers, replacing 4,000 irrigation nozzles with low-flow rotators and bubblers, and mulching landscaped areas to conserve soil moisture.

With the opening of its water-wise garden, the park joins Donna and her staff in encouraging everyone to squeeze every drop we can.



-Contributed by Corrine Brindley
SeaWorld director of government relations

Here’s some of the free, fun stuff coming up this month at the Clairemont Library, 2920 Burgener Blvd.

- Author Richard Lederer, former co-host of the popular KPBS radio show *A Way with Words*, 6 p.m. Dec. 7.
- Mesa College Guitar Ensemble concert, 6:30 p.m. Dec. 9.
- Art class for children, “Drawing Winter Art” by illustrator and author Lisa Davis DeMattei, 4 p.m. Dec. 2.
- Adult Book Club, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See, 6 p.m. Dec. 2.
- Teen Book Club, *American Born Chinese*, by Gene Wang, 6 p.m. Dec. 9.
- Free homework help for students grades K-12, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28.

Additional information is available by calling the library at (858) 581-9935 or visiting www.sandiegolibrary.org.



Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	858-495-7856
Animal Regulation	619-236-4250
Beach & Bay Advisory	619-338-2073
Birth and Death Records	619-237-0502
Brush/Weed Abatement	619-533-4444
Building Permits	619-446-5000
Buses/MTS Access	619-233-3004
Canyon Watchers Program	858-292-6484
City Council Docket Info	619-533-4000
City Directory	619-236-5555
Code Violations	619-236-5500
Curb Maintenance	619-527-7500
Dead Animal Removal	858-694-7000
Dog Licenses	619-767-2675
Fire Stations	619-533-4300
Graffiti	619-525-8522
Hazardous Materials Hotline	858-694-7000
Housing Commission	619-231-9400
Humane Society	619-299-7012
Libraries	
Balboa	858-573-1390
Clairemont	858-581-9935
Linda Vista	858-573-1399
Mission Valley	858-573-5000
North Clairemont	858-581-9931
Serra Mesa	858-573-1396
Noise Regulation	619-236-5500
Office of Small Business	619-685-1390
Park and Recreation	619-525-8219
Parking Citations	619-236-7145
Police: Non-Emergency	619-531-2000
Pot Hole Hotline	619-527-7500
Recreation Centers	
Kearny Mesa	858-573-1387
Linda Vista	858-573-1392
North Clairemont	858-581-9926
Serra Mesa	858-573-1408
South Clairemont	858-581-9924
Tecolote	858-581-9933
Recycling Hotline	858-694-7000
Senior Citizens Services	619-236-6905
Serra Mesa Community Connection	858-565-2473
Sewer Repair/Spills	619-515-3525
Sidewalk Maintenance	619-527-7500
Social Services Information	211
Stormwater Pollution Hotline	619-235-1000
Street Lights	619-527-7500
Street Sweeping	619-527-7500
Traffic Control	619-533-3126
Tree Maintenance	619-527-7500
Waste Reduction & Disposal	858-492-5010
Water Emergency	619-515-3525
Water Utilities	619-515-3500
Zoning Regulation Information	619-236-5555

District Six Community Meetings

Clairemont Town Council, <http://www.clairemontonline.com/>

Place: Clairemont High School Cafeteria
4150 Ute Drive
When: 1st Thursday/Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee

Place: LiveWell San Diego (formerly Clairemont Senior Friendship Center)
4425 Bannock Ave.
When: 3rd Tuesday/Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Kearny Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
9005 Aero Drive
When: 3rd Wednesday/Month
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Linda Vista Town Council

Place: Baha'i Center
6545 Alcala Knolls Drive
When: 3rd Thursday/Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Linda Vista Planning Group

Place: Linda Vista Library
2160 Ulric Street
When: 4th Monday/Month
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Bay Park Committee

Place: Rotating Venue
When: 1st Tuesday/Month
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Community Council

Place: Mission Valley Library
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 3rd Monday/Odd Months
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Mission Valley Planning Group

Place: Mission Valley Library
2123 Fenton Parkway
When: 1st Wednesday/Month
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Serra Mesa Community Council, www.serramesa.org

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
9005 Aero Drive
When: 4th Wednesday/Month
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Serra Mesa Planning Group

Place: Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Library
9005 Aero Drive
When: 3rd Thursday/Month
Time: 7:00 p.m.



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FRYE LIGHTS: CELEBRATING THE DISTRICT SIX SPIRIT



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Register to receive updates & event information from Councilmember Frye
by signing up in the "Frye Lights" box at www.sandiego.gov/cd61